Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 TUNIS 02575 291643Z

62
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
---------- 100906
R 291600Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5324
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 2575

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TS, US
SUBJECT: PROJECTED VISIT TO U.S. OF PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA

1. FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTI CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE APRIL 29 TO DISCUSS DATES FOR PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S VISIT TO U.S. WHILE HE SAID THAT TENTAIVE DATE OF JUNE 5 AND 6 WHICH HAD BEEN FIXED FOR WASHINGTON VISIT CONTINUE TO BE SATISFACTORY TO GOT, TUNISIANS ARE AWARE OF POSSIBILITY THAT THESE DATES MAY HAVE TO BE CHANGED IN LIGHT OF PRESIDENT

NIXON'S TRAVEL PLANS. CHATTI RECALLED THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM HAD INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT NIXON MIGHT

BE TRAVELING TOWARD END OF MAY (STATE 081412). CHATTI ADDED THAT THIS POSSIBLITY HAD BEEN REINFORCED BY INFORMATION GOT HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM EGYPTIANS THAT PRESIDENT NIXON WOULD BE VISITNG CAIRO AT THAT TIME. ACCORDINGLY, CONTINUED CHATTI, IF PRESIDENT NIXON IS UNABLE TO RECEIVE PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA IN WASHINGTON DURING FIRST WEEK IN JUNE, HE WOULD PROPOSE FOR OUR CONSIDERATION POST-PONING BOURGUIBA VISIT TO U.S. UNTIL NEXT NOVEMBER.

2. CHATTI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD INFORMED ME FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM WASHINGTON THAT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA COULD ALWAYS ADJUST HIS PLANS AND VISIT CHINA FIRST, ARRIVING IN WASHINGTON DURING SECOND WEEK IN JUNE, SHOULD PRESIDENT
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

NIXON BE TRAVELLING. NOW, HOWEVER, CHATTI HAD BECOME AWARE OF UNDESIRABILITY FROM STANDPOINT OF BOURGUIBA'S HEALTH FOR

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

HIM TO TRAVEL FROM CHINA TO U.S. BECAUSE OF UNFAVORABLE TIME CHANGE. ALSO, HE FELT THAT BOURGUIBA WOULD BE TIRED UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON IF HE VISITED CHINA FIRST AND HE ATTACHED CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO BOURGUIBA'S ARRIVING IN WASHINGTON FRESH. IF PLANS WERE CHANGED, GOT WOULD WANT SOME ADVANCE NOTICE IN ORDER TO LINE UP POSSIBLE STOPOVERS IN PAKISTAN, ETC. ENROUTE TO CHINA.

3.I NOTED THAT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S VISIT TO U.S. HAD ALREADY BEEN POSTPONED COUPLE OF TIMES AND LONDERED WHETHER WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR BOURGUIBA TO POSTPONE HIS TRIP TO U.S., AS WELL AS TO CHINA, BY ONE WEEK, STILL TRAVELLING EAST TO WEST. CHATTI SAID THAT DATES FOR VISIT TO CHINA HAD ALREADY BEEN CHANGED TWICE AND IT WOULD BE AWKWARD TO REQUEST ANY FURTHER CHANGES. FURTHERMORE, HE WAS CONCERNED THAT BY SECOND WEEK IN JUNE THE WASHINGTON CLIMATE WOUD BE UNCONGENIAL -- THE DOCTORS HERE URGING THAT BOURGUIBA AVOID HOT CLIMATES.

4.I TOLD CHATTI THAT I WOULD PASS HIS VIEWS TO WASHINGTON AND WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH AS SOON AS I HAD A RESPONSE. I NOTED THAT WE MIGHT HAVE TO WAIT ANOTHER WEEK OR MORE BEFORE PRESIDENT NIXON'S PLANS WERE FIRMED UP. IF PRESIDENT NIXON WERE INDEED IN WASHINGTON DURING FIRST WEEK IN JUNE, I BELIEVE THAT CURRENTLY PROPOSED DATES OF JUNE 5 AND 6 REMAINED SATISFACOTRY. I ASKED CHATTI WHETHER GOT HAD GIVEN THROUGHT TO PUBLIC EFFECT OF POSTPONEMENT OF BOURGUIBA'S VISIT TO THE U.S. AT TIME WHEN BOURGUIBA PROCEEDING TO CHINA. CHATTI THOUGHT THAT THIS WOULD BE EXPLICABLE IN TERMS OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S LAST-MINUTE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS.

5. COMMENT: WHILE TUNISIANS UNDERSTAND REASONS FOR OUR INABILITY TO CONFIRM PROJECTED DATES FOR BOURGUIBA'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON, THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY GETTING A LITTLE ANXIOUS AS TIME DRAWS NEAR. ALTERNATE POSSIBILITY OF VISIT DURING SECOND WEEK OF JUNE APPEARS TO BE RULED OUT BY TUNISIANS, AT LEAST FOR MOMENT. MY RECOMMENDATION IS THAT
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

WE NOT RPT NOT TAKE INITIATIVE TO POSTPONE VISIT TO NOVEMBER UNTIL AND UNLESS PRESIDENT NIXON'S TRAVEL PLANS ARE FIRM. IF WE AGREE IMMEDIATELY TO POSTPONE VISIT AND IT DEVELOPS THAT PRESIDENT NIXON DOES INDEED REMAIN IN WASHINGTON DURING FIRST WEEK IN JUNE, TUNISIANS MIGHT MISUNDERSTAND. RATHER, I SUGGEST WE TELL CHATTI: (1) PRESIDENT NIXON'S PLANS ARE STILL UNCERTAIN BUT WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO GIVE DEFINITE RESPONSE SHORTLY; (2) DATES OF JUNE 5 AND 6 FOR PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S VISIT ARE STILL ON PRESIDENT'S CALENDAR; (3) IF IT HAPPENS THAT PRESIDENT NIXON WILL BE TRAVELLING ABROAD DURING

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

FIRST WEEK IN JUNE, WE ARE PREPARED EITHER TO SET VISIT
FOR SECOND WEEK IN JUNE OR POSTPONE UNTIL NOVEMBER, DEPENDING
ON GOT PREFERENCES; (4) IF GOT FEELS IT CAN WAIT NO LONGER
BEFORE MAKING FINAL PLANS AND CHOOSES NOT RPT NOT TO AWAIT
DEFINITE WORD RE PRESIDENT NIXON'S PLANS, WE WOULD HAVE
NO OBJECTION TO CHANGING DATE OF VISIT TO NOVEMBER, AS LONG

AS GOT UNDERSTANDS THAT PRESIDENT NIXON MAY POSSIBLY BE
ABLE TO SEE PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA IN WASHINGTON JUNE 5 - 6.
SEELYE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TUNIS02575
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740101-1092
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974044/aaaaadoy.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROJECTED VISIT TO U.S. OF PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, TS, US, (BOURGUIBA, HABIB)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005